

MR. F. X. AUBREY'S TRIP.

We read the following from the *Gazette of the 24th*: It will be found to be a most interesting account. It was furnished in reply to the following correspondence between Mr. AUBREY and Mr. COLLINS, the Editor:

SANTA FE, N. M., Sept. 15, '53.

DEAR SIR: I congratulate you on your safe arrival in New Mexico, after a long and dangerous journey through a region of country hitherto unexplored, but at this time regarded by the public with intense interest, on account of the supposed existence through it of a comparatively unobstructed route for a railroad to connect the Valley of the Mississippi with the Pacific Ocean. May I ask you to gratify my curiosity, and that of the public, by allowing me to inspect your journals, and publish such parts of it as may serve to give a full and correct idea of the country?

Your friend, faithfully,

J. L. COLLINS.

To F. X. Aubrey.

SANTA FE, N. M., Sept. 15, '53.

DEAR SIR: Your favor of this date has just been handed to me. I cannot refuse to comply with the request it contains, at the same time that I much regret the meagreness of my notes, and my inability to give a more accurate and scientific account of the country over which I have just passed.

Your friend and obedient servant,

F. X. AUBREY.

To J. L. Collins, Esq.

NOTES.

Tejon Pass, July 10, 1853. As the country between this point and San Francisco is well known, I have kept no minutes of my journey thus far. We crossed the Sierra Nevada at the Tejon Pass, which is about the 35th parallel of latitude, and about 50 miles south of Walker's Pass. From this point we will travel east until we reach the Rio Grande at Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is well to remark that unfortunately there is no one with us who knows anything of the country through which we must pass, and we could not obtain any information in regard to it. My party consists of 18 men—12 Americans and 6 Mexicans. Messrs. Tully, of Santa Fe, and Adair, of Independence, have joined us for a pleasure trip. We use pack animals entirely, having neither wagon nor carriage.

July 11th. Left the Pass and made 12 miles east over a level, grassy and sandy soil, and found a spring of good water.

July 12th. Travelled 20 miles eastward, the country similar to that of yesterday. We met with no timber, but found several springs of fresh water. There is timber in the mountains about the Tejon Pass, but none on the eastern side of them.

July 13th. Travelled to-day 35 miles east, and struck the Mohave river, where we found plenty of good water. This river sometimes disappears in its course, whilst at others it contains as much as two feet of water. There is a little cotton wood timber upon its banks, and cane-brakes in great abundance. The cane is not of a large species.

The Mohave takes its rise in the San Bernardino mountains, which lay to the south of us, and after pursuing a northern course to a point a little north of our present camp, turns suddenly east, and soon south of east to empty into the great Colorado. Found good grass for our animals.

July 14th. Made 20 miles east along the Mohave, and found water, timber and grass abundant.

July 15th. Continued along the river about 18 miles further, in a direction nearly east, then leaving the Mohave to our right, we travelled 15 miles north-east.

Met with an abundance of grass, a little timber, and a few miles of fertile land along the river. There is no water in the bed of the stream; but it may be had by digging a few feet. Found wild water, grass or wheat.

July 16th. Still pursuing a north-east course—we travelled to-day 35 miles over a level, gravelly soil. We have deviated from our due east course in order to avoid a region of sand hills that lie to our right, and directly between us and the great Colorado. The weather is very hot and no rain has fallen since we left the Pass. So far we have met with neither Indians nor game of any kind. We obtained a little water about half way in our day's journey, but saw no timber or grass.

July 17th. Made 33 miles north-east, over a level, gravelly country; about half way obtained a very little bad water. No grass or timber in sight during the day; but at night we obtained good water, grass and wild cane. Prairie mountains lie on both sides of the trail.

July 18th. Travelled 20 miles, still north-east, over a level country. Saw but little good land, and no timber. After travelling about five miles we found good spring water, but encamped without any.

July 19th. Course still north-east, distance 32 miles, country level, soil inferior, grass and water, but no timber.

July 20th. Made 20 miles north-east, over a level, gravelly country, and obtained good spring water and grass. Saw no timber.

July 21st. Were detained in camp all day by the sickness of one of the men.

July 22d. Travelled 20 miles east south east, most of the distance through a little canon, where we found good grass, water and cane in abundance, and struck the Great Colorado of the West. The river at this place is over three hundred yards in width, and has from 10 to 15 feet water in the channel. Its banks are entirely destitute of timber and grass; in fact, no vegetation of any kind except a small shrub, called *chamisa* by the Mexicans and I believe *artemisia* by botanists.

We were very fortunate in striking the river at a point where there are neither canons nor mountains; although the country appears very rough and mountainous both to the north and south of us. To the north the rocks are black and irregular, and appear to be volcanic while the cliffs to the south are red sandstone. The banks at the crossing are low, rocky and unchanging, and the current exceedingly rapid.

We followed the river up for five miles, and selected a crossing where it is some 200 yards wide, and 20 or 25 feet deep. We succeeded in finding a raft. Four men took charge of it, and it was carried some three miles with the current before it could be landed. The heights were covered with

Indians in readiness to shoot us down. I started down with four men to follow the raft and protect the men who were upon it, having ordered the camp to move down in haste. Having unloaded the raft upon the eastern bank, the men re-crossed the river, and we selected a camp opposite the place where the baggage was deposited, and during the night kept a constant fire with our rifles across the river, and in this manner protected it from the Indians.

The animals were taken to the crossing I had first selected, to swim the river. I took them up with three men on the west bank, and four men received them on the opposite side. This detained us half a day, and altogether we were detained five days in crossing the river.

The driftwood of which we constructed our little raft appeared to have been cut by beavers. These animals must be exceedingly abundant, as they destroyed during the first night the ropes with which our raft was bound together, and carried off the timber. The loss of the ropes was a great inconvenience to us. We set a guard afterwards at night over our second raft to protect it from a similar fate.

The river showed signs of having been some 15 feet higher than when we crossed it. It is here a grand and magnificent stream, swift like the Mississippi, and apparently well adapted to navigation.

The place of our crossing is well suited to bridging, or ferrying, by steam or otherwise.

We saw no water-fowl about the river, and only a few black-tailed deer. East of the river we encountered a great many rattlesnakes of an uncommon large size. They seem to be a new species, as their tails are covered for some six inches from the point, with alternate white and black rings of hair or bristles, about quarter of an inch long.

According to my observations, the Colorado of the West is set down upon the maps greatly too far to the east, perhaps as much as 150 miles.

The Indians were constantly in our sight and watching our movements. They could not be induced to approach us; but assured us, across the river, that they were Mexicans.

On one occasion, whilst at rest for a few minutes in a deep gully, about a mile from the crossing on the west side of the river, a Mexican mule boy discovered something glistening upon the ground, which on examination proved to be gold. We at once commenced washing sand in our tin cups, and in every one discovered particles of gold. This gold was discovered in a dark, coarse sand, and a black heavy sand was found in the cup after washing away the gravel. The sandy soil was so compact that we could not dig it up with our fingers. The Indians being still on the heights near us, and our being separated by the river, the danger was so great that we could not remain longer at this spot.

I intended to return again, but the Indians became so numerous that it was impossible to do so. This gully is on the right bank of the river, and the head of it is in a very rough and rugged mountain.

July 27th. We washed sand on the east side of the river, and found gold in greater abundance than on any previous occasion. I myself washed a tin cup full of yellow clay, and found about 25 cents worth of the pure metal. A Mexican boy, on washing a tin cup full of coarse sand, found from 40 to 50 particles of pure gold, some of which were as large as the head of a pin. We took the clay and sand from the top of the ground without digging. The appearance of the country also indicates gold.

I made no further examination, as our animals had subsisted for five days upon the *chamisa*, without a blade of grass, and our provisions had been damaged in the Colorado, which must cause us to travel several days without anything to eat.

Today we made ten miles east. The country is without wood, water or grass.

July 28th. Two of our men being sick, we were compelled to return to the river on their account.

Struck it some 15 miles below the crossing, and found that from that point it crosses a considerable bend towards the east. The country here does not indicate gold, nor could we find any on washing the sands.

July 29th. The condition of our sick men obliged us to remain in camp all day. Our animals were in a starving condition, as there is not a particle of grass on or near the river.

July 30th. Left the river and travelled 15 miles east, and 5 miles north-east. A sick Mexican was so much exhausted that we were compelled to make for a mountain north of us, which indicated water, but we found neither water, timber nor grass.

July 31st. Travelled 8 miles north-east, and struck a large stream, but much smaller than the Colorado, coming from the east-south-east, and running west-north-west. The stream may be what the Mexicans designate as the Rio Las Apaches, and what the Americans have recently called the Little Red River.

One of my Mexicans followed this stream a few miles, and says that it empties into the Colorado 7 or 8 miles below camp, and that there is below us a valley of good soil and grass in abundance. Where we struck this stream, there is neither timber nor grass.

In the evening we travelled 5 miles south to avoid mountains, and as many east. The country was level, but without grass or timber.

The mountains, or perhaps more properly hills, that we have thus far met with, are nothing more than elevations of various dimensions, dispersed in a detached and irregular manner over a vast and otherwise uninteresting plateau. Hence I have constantly termed the country level, and very properly, as it may be traversed in all directions among the solitary and detached elevations or mountains, without the necessity of crossing them.

August 1st. Travelled 20 miles east and found a spring of good water; the grass was abundant, and cedar trees were seen on the highlands; the country is level and the soil inferior.

August 2d. Made 10 miles east crossing a mountain or ridge where we found a fine pass, grass and timber (cedar and pine) abundant.

August 3d. Travelled 20 miles south of east over a country somewhat broken; timber and grass abundant. Indians were around us in numbers all day, shooting arrows every moment; they wounded some of our mules, and my famous mare, Dolly, who has so often rescued me from danger by her speed and capacity of endurance.

August 4th. We moved 10 miles south to avoid mountains, and struck a valley which we left a few days since, and which extends to the Colorado; the mountains we left are covered with timber. Grass and water found in plenty.

The Indians commenced firing on us at sunrise, and continued until we reached camp. Arrows passed through the clothes of several of the men, and three passed through my own clothes, and I was slightly wounded by two others in different places. An arrow passed through the collar of Dick Williams. We killed several of the Indians and wounded more. Peter Prudom accidentally shot himself in the right knee.

August 5th. Travelled 10 miles south-east in a valley; no water; grass and timber in abundance on all the mountains.

August 6th. Continued 10 miles south-east in the same valley in which we travelled yesterday; found no water, but good grass and plenty of timber on and below the mountains. As our sick men are unable to travel, we are suffering for water, having been nearly three days without any, and indications are not now favorable. Indians still around us.

August 7th. Travelled 10 miles south-east, half the distance in the same valley, and then went to a mountain and found pure water, grass and timber. All the mountains in this country are covered with cedar, pine and pinon. The grass is good in all the prairies, but none of them have any water. The soil is sandy and full of particles of mica. Indians are numerous and continue to fire upon us.

August 8th. Made 15 miles east-south-east, crossing a little chain of mountains, where we found a level pass, and grass and water in abundance. Crossed a stream running north-east to south-west, which I think goes to the Colorado. After crossing the mountains, we passed through a fine valley, with an abundance of good spring water, and timber near it. The Indians attacked the camp several times last night, but without success, and continued fighting us during the day, but with less boldness and resolution.

August 9th. After proceeding eight miles east we found ourselves surrounded by canons, apparently from one to four thousand feet deep; at least we sometimes could not see the bottom. We were compelled to return to the same camp. The country is high and level, and well supplied with timber, grass and water.

August 10th. Moved 10 miles southeast over a somewhat broken country. Crossed a stream of good water, (with timber along its course) which is evidently a tributary of the Gila. The country indicates gold in abundance. We crossed a little chain of mountains, where we found a great quantity of silver ore in flint rocks.

August 11th. Travelled southeast over a country a little broken, but well supplied with water, grass and timber. Indications of gold still exist.

August 12th. Made 15 miles southeast, crossing the bed of a large stream, now dry, with plenty of timber along it. Struck the valley which we left some five or six days ago, having crossed a few days ago the head waters of a stream which passes through it. This valley will be of the utmost importance in the making a wagon or rail road.

Today, for the first time on this trip, we ate a dinner of mule meat. It was a new dish to most of our men and made some of them sick. To me it was an old acquaintance, and I feel well. It only served to remind me of hard times on other journeys. The quality of the meat depends on the appetite of the man. Several of us are now on foot.

August 13th. Marched 20 miles east, leaving to our right the great valley so often mentioned, and which extends to the Colorado. Passed through a little valley between two mountains, where we found timber, grass and water in abundance. The soil excellent.

We here met Indians, who professed to be very friendly, with papers of recommendation from the commanding officer of Fort Yuma on the Gila trail.

August 14th. We left early and after travelling five miles in an eastern direction, stopped to breakfast near an Indian camp of Oarotoes. They professed friendship, but having no faith in their professions, I selected a camp on the top of a small hill, which would give us advantage in case of a fight. All went on well until our mules were saddled, and we were ready to start, when, at a given signal, some forty or fifty Indians, apparently charged upon us, and attempted to destroy the whole party with clubs and rocks. The signal of attack was the taking of my hand in farewell by a chief, which he held with all his strength. So soon as these first Indians commenced the fight, about two hundred more rushed from behind a hill and brush, and charged upon us with clubs, bows and arrows. I thought, for a few minutes, that our party must necessarily be destroyed; but some of us having disengaged ourselves, we shot them down, and now brought, by successive improvements, to a state of perfection.

Mr. Hendry, an American, and Francisco Guzman, a New Mexican, greatly distinguished themselves.

Twelve of us, just two-thirds of our party, were severely wounded. I, among the rest, was wounded in six places. Almer Adair, I fear, is dangerously injured. It was a very great satisfaction to me to find that none of my men were killed, nor any of the animals lost. We bled very much from our numerous wounds; but the blood and bodies of the Indians covered the ground for many yards around us. We killed over twenty-five and wounded more. The bows and arrows that we captured and destroyed, would have more than filled a large wagon.

Before the attack commenced, the squaws kept the clubs, which were from 18 to 24 inches long, concealed in deer skins that they children. When put to flight they threw their babies down into a deep, brushy gully, near at hand, by which many of them must have been killed. This is the first time I ever met with a party of Indians accompanied by their wives and children.

The presence of the latter was evidently to remove from our minds all suspicion of foul play on their part. I was never before in so perilous a condition with a party in all my life. On this occasion, which will be the last, I imprudently gave my right hand, in parting, to the Indian chief. The left must answer for leaving that hereafter.

We have thus far had so much ill-luck to encounter, that our arrival at our destination

must be much delayed. First, our men fell sick, then our provisions were damaged in the Colorado; latterly, a man shot himself through the knee; our mules' feet for want of shoes, are worn out; and to crown all, to-day, two-thirds of the party are badly wounded, and all have barely escaped with their lives. We are now subsisting entirely on mule meat, and do not get as much of that as we want. We are without salt and pepper, and in their absence it requires a stout stomach to digest our fare. But nobody complains, and the possibility of not doing what we have set out to do has never entered the minds of my party.

We travelled 5 miles this afternoon, with the Indians at our heels shooting arrows at us every moment.

August 15th. Travelled 10 miles east amongst mountains, where we found water, grass and timber in abundance. Indians around us all day shooting arrows. I omitted, in the proper place, to say that I brought on the 10th, a little black sand, less than a cupful, and found in it on washing, twelve or fifteen particles of pure gold.

August 16th. Made 10 miles east, and found no water, plenty of grass and timber seen on the mountains north of us. Indians still numerous and troublesome. A vein of the pure native metal, about an inch and a half in diameter, was seen sticking out from a rock, which must have worn away by time and left the copper exposed. I think there is gold in the ore, but am not certain.

Our condition at present is bad enough. I have eight wounds upon me, five of which cause me much suffering; and at the same time, my mule having given out, I have to walk the whole distance. Thirteen of us are now wounded, and one is sick, so that we have only four men in good health. We are unable to travel faster on account of Adair's condition.

Our canteens, &c., having been broken or destroyed in our fight with the Indians, we cannot carry water enough for more than half a day. This loss caused us to suffer more than can be imagined. Our animals were broken down by this traveling, which could not be avoided. We would come across an abundance of water every day if we could march some 25 or 30 miles, but our condition is such that it requires three days to make that small distance. In addition to all this, we are now on half rations of horse meat, and I have the misfortune to know that it is the flesh of my inestimable mare Dolly, who has so often, by her speed, saved me from death at the hands of the Indians. Being wounded some days ago by the Garroteros, she gave out, and we are now subsisting upon her flesh.

August 17th. Moved to-day about 10 miles east, over a country rather rough. Suffering much for want of water. In crossing mountains we have to select the highest places instead of the regular passes, as when caught in canons or gullies we are not strong enough to fight the Indians. Today, from top of a little mountain, I saw the great valley, so often mentioned, extending to the Colorado, not over 20 miles south of us, and it now seems to turn more to the east. I intend to make for it. I entertain fears that Adair and Baskerville are in danger from their wounds; all the others are getting better.

August 18th. Moved only 5 miles south of east. Found water, grass and some timber.

August 19th. Went 5 miles to-day in the same direction as yesterday, and came to the great valley that extends to the Colorado. Encamped on a creek of good water and grass; Adair being sometimes unable to travel, we are waiting on him. Indians around us shooting arrows. We never return their fire without being certain of our shots.

August 20th. Travelled 20 miles east over a level gravelly country; crossed a creek; found good grass; no timber in sight.

August 21st. Moved 10 miles east over a level, gravelly country, and struck a large stream, which is no doubt a branch of the Gila. The mountains to the north of us are very rough and without timber.

There is no grass on the stream, is 30 yards wide with 3 feet of water in the channel. Its course is from north to south.

August 22nd. Made 10 miles south-east to a mountain. Country level and without grass or timber.

August 23rd. Moved about the same distance and in the same direction, over a low, gravelly country. Struck a stream of good water, but without grass or timber.

August 24th. Went about 8 miles northeast and encamped in the mountains, where we met with the Apaches Tontos. No timber seen to-day.

August 25th. Crossed the mountains where the Apaches Tontos live; found water, timber and grass in abundance. Travelled 15 miles northeast from the top of this mountain, from which we saw the Sierra Blanca Mountains, which are near the Pueblo of Zuni.

Saw a prairie extending from the east end of the Garrotero Mountain to the upper end of the Sierra Blanca. I saw this prairie when we were at the east end of the Garrotero Mountain, but we were not in a condition to examine it. Fifty miles is nothing with good animals; but ours were broken down, and our wounded men were unable to travel over ten miles a day. But I saw the country sufficiently well to convince me that there will be no obstacle whatever to the making of a rail or wagon road.

The mountains which we crossed to-day are impracticable for either. I should like to return to the east end of the Garrotero Mountain, and pursue the route I indicated; but it is utterly impossible to do so, as we are now living on berries and herbs. We would rejoice to have mule-meat, but we have so few animals, and so many wounded men, that it would be unsafe to kill any more. I have the good fortune of having true men with me, otherwise it would be uncertain that the party could get through; but I have confidence in my men, and I feel positively certain that we will make the trip.

It will take us some ten or twelve days to reach Zuni, where we expect to procure provisions. I shall travel near the mountains, as heretofore, on account of the certainty and facility of getting water, but shall remain in sight of the prairie extending from the Garrotero to Sierra Blanca mountain.

August 26th. Moved 10 miles east-north-east, most of the way along a creek, where we found grass in plenty, and some timber. The Apaches Tontos are numerous and troublesome.

August 27th. Made 15 miles east, crossing two streams, which are branches of the Gila. We met Indians to-day, who, I think, are not Apaches Tontos, as they do not speak

any Spanish, and refuse to answer our questions. We obtained from them over fifteen hundred dollars worth of gold for a few old articles of clothing. The Indians use gold bullets for their guns. They are of different sizes, and each Indian has a pouch of them. We saw an Indian load his gun with one large and three small bullets to shoot a rabbit. They proposed exchanging them for lead; I preferred trading other articles. Whether the Indians made these balls themselves, or whether they were obtained by the murder of miners in California or Sonora, I am unable to say.

August 28th. Travelled 10 miles east over a good country, met with more Indians, and traded for some horse-meat, by giving articles of clothing in exchange. We traded also for a few hundred dollars worth of gold. To-day, a mule broke down, and an Indian gave me for it a lump of gold weighing a pound and a half less one ounce.

The Indians are so numerous they would destroy the party if we allowed them the least chance. But we are very vigilant, and select camps on elevated places, consequently we are unable to make any examinations for gold in the sands of the country. The Indians call themselves *Belenios*.

August 29th. Travelled some twenty miles in an eastern direction; the country quite level, and the land good, with plenty of grass and water.

August 30th. Travelled to-day about 15 east, over a country a little broken. Water and grass abundant.

September 1st. Moved about 12 miles north of east, over country similar to that of yesterday. Found water, grass and pine timber.

September 2nd. Travelled 15 miles over a country a little broken, and well supplied with water, grass and timber.

September 3rd. Travelled the same distance north-east to the Sierra Blanca. Followed Indian trails all day, and found grass, water and pine timber in great abundance; and most of the soil is of a superior quality.

September 4th. Pursuing the same course, we travelled some 15 miles among the same mountains. To-day we passed through valleys of good soil, and we found the pine timber in greater abundance than yesterday. The trees are generally from two and a half to five feet in diameter, and over two hundred feet high. We have seen timber enough to-day to make a railroad from the eastern States to the Pacific. The passes through this mountain are level, and can be travelled by wagons without any difficulty whatever.

September 5th. Made 25 miles northeast, crossing the Colorado Chiquito after traveling two miles. The land is level and good, and water and wood are plenty.

September 6th. Made 20 miles north-east, and got out of the mountains after traveling 5 miles; struck the prairie, where we found good soil, grass and water.

September 7th. Continuing northeast over a good level country for 25 miles, we reached the Indian town or pueblo of Zuni, where we met with a hospitable and civilized population, from whom we obtained an abundance of good provisions, over which we greatly rejoiced.

We have subsisted for a month on mule and horse-flesh, and for the most part of that time on half or quarter rations. But as I reached this place with all my men I feel satisfied. I shall take no notes of the country from this town to Albuquerque on the Rio Grande, as a level and much-travelled wagon-road exists between the two places, and is familiar to the people of New Mexico. It has been described by others, and is well known to present no difficulties to the construction of a railroad.

September 10th. At Albuquerque, New Mexico. Before laying aside my pencil, for the use of which I have no fancy, I shall set down a few ideas that are now prominent in my recollection.

I set out in the first place, upon this journey, simply to gratify my own curiosity, as to the practicability of one of the much-talked-of routes for the contemplated Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. Having previously traveled the southern or Gila route, I felt anxious to compare it with the Albuquerque or middle route. Although I conceive the former to be every way practicable, I now give it as my opinion that the latter is equally so, whilst it has the additional advantage of being more central and serviceable to the Union. I believe the route I traveled is far enough south to be certainly free from the danger of obstruction by snows in winter.

The route, in all its length, may be said to pass over a high plateau, or generally level country, for the most part thickly studded with prairie mountains, or detached elevations, seldom so linked together as to deserve to be called a chain of mountains. Numerous mountains were at all times in sight; but being for the most part isolated peaks, a detour of a few miles would always supersede the necessity of crossing them.

To the south of our route from the Great Colorado to Zuni, the country was more level than on the north, and for the greater part of the distance a valley extends nearly due east and west to the Colorado. The existence of so many mountains along the way must be considered, in reference to a railroad, as a very fortunate circumstance instead of a disadvantage, as it is the mountains alone which furnish the timber and never failing water. The plains are the only deserts and barren spots, if they are to be called so after the fashion of the day, which exist in all that vast region of country which lies between the Gila on the south and the British possessions on the north, and the Rio Grande on the east, and the Sierra Nevada of California on the west. The plateau, or table lands, must of course furnish the track upon which the road is to be laid; but the mountains adjacent must furnish the timber to make it, and the water for the use of men and animals employed in its construction, and for the use of the depots afterwards.

It is well for the country over which I passed that these mountains exist, as without them it would be in reality one vast and repulsive desert. It would be a disadvantage for a railroad to have to cross them as, although not difficult to cross, it would much increase the expense. But I saw nothing that rendered it at all probable that they would have to be crossed. On the contrary, I am satisfied that a railroad may be run almost mathematically direct from Zuni to the Colorado, and from thence to the Tejon Pass in California. The section from the Pass to San Francisco should leave the Tular Lake to the west, and should pass through the Coast Range of Mountains, say in the neighborhood of San Juan, and thence to San Francisco, and by a branch to Stockton.

The west side of Tular Lake is unfit for

a road on account of its mucky nature. The section of the route from Zuni to Albuquerque is plain sailing. That from Albuquerque to Independence or St. Louis, or Memphis, is equally plain, by two or three well-known passes through the Sandia mountains, which lie east of the Rio Grande.

Certain slight deviations from the track which I pursued would improve the route. For instance, it would be better to leave my trail to the north, at a point say 180 miles east of the Sierra Nevada, and intersect it again some 15 miles west of the Colorado. On the east side of the Colorado the road should pursue a directly eastern course for 75 miles, and thence take an east-southeast course for nearly 200 miles, at the foot and on the south side of the mountain inhabited by the Garrotero Indians. Thence north-east for 15 miles, in a prairie between those mountains and a range of mountains which seem to extend to the Gila. From this point the road should run easterly to Colorado Chiquito river, and thence northeast to Zuni. The distance from the east end of the Garrotero mountains to Zuni is about 200 miles. This route, as I indicate it, will pass at all times in sight of my trail, and will be as practicable a country as any railroad route of the same distance in the United States.

The proposed route by the Sangre de Cristo, north of Taos, I take, if practicable at all, to be very objectionable on account of the vast elevations the road must ascend to, and the large quantities of snow which fall and remain there so long during the winter months. This route has also the additional disadvantage of crossing two rivers, the Grand and the Green, either of which would be as costly to bridge as the Colorado.

A route has been somewhat spoken of just north of the Gila, with the view of having a route wholly on American ground. That I am satisfied, is altogether out of the question, on account of mountains alone, if no other objection existed. The Gila route proper, passing in part through Sonora, is objectionable on several accounts besides its situation. In the first place, there is no timber upon the plains, nor upon the volcanic mountains that are along the way. A considerable part of the route, too, lies over a country destitute of vegetation, which, when dry, is a white powder, resembling flour, in which the feet of men and animals sink several inches. This same clay, when wet, is the most treacherous of quagmires. Some parts of the road are also very sandy. Don Ambrosio Armiño, who took sheep to California last year, lost as many as eleven hundred among the sandhills west of Colorado, by sinking in the sand, and being run over by those behind. Another serious objection to the Gila route is the great desert which lies west of Colorado, and has an extent of 100 miles without wood or water.

I have no interest in recommending one of these routes more than another. I took sheep and wagons to California last year by the Gila route, and I am about to return that way to California, again with sheep. Upon the route which I have just traveled I encountered many hardships and dangers, and met with serious pecuniary losses; yet I say it is the best for a railroad, and would be excellent for ordinary traveling but for the Indians. A large portion of the trail over which I passed—say some 250 miles west from the Rio Grande—is, for the most part, admirably adapted to farming and stock raising.

BRUNSWICK HOUSE
By N. HARRY.
THE subscriber has received his Hotel to the two large and commodious buildings on Main street, a few doors below Isaac Brinkley's Store and nearly opposite that of N. & A. Johnson where he will be pleased to see his old friends and the public generally, pledging himself to use every exertion to give satisfaction.

He has a good Stable, and Lots for cattle and horses. A Bar, elegantly fitted up and supplied with the choicest liquors, is attached to the Hotel. The Stage Office for the Western and Northern Mails